MARVEL

2

LGY#028

WATTERS
PERALTA
SPICER

LOKI

LOKI is the **RULER OF JOTUNHEIM** and the **GOD OF STORIES**. But once upon a time, Loki was the **TRICKSTER GOD—THE GOD OF MISCHIEF, EVIL AND LIES**. And once upon that time, Loki constructed a cursed ship called **NAGLFAR** using the fingernails of the dead.

When a pair of frost giants recently tried—and failed— "grand theft Naglfar," three fragments of the ship scattered across the realms. Loki traveled to **NIDAVELLIR** to retrieve the first piece, but arrived to a rather cold welcome…

LOKI

"THE LIAR"

CHAPTER TWO

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NIDAVELLIR.

REALM OF THE DWARVES.

(THOSE OF THEM WHO ARE LEFT AT LEAST, SINCE THEY KEEP GETTING MASS MURDERED.)

THE FIRST BLOW OF OUR BLADE BARELY GRAZES LOKI'S HEAD.

THE SECOND BLOW STRIKES NOTHING BUT CLOTH AND EARTH.

THE THIRD BLOW, ALAS, IS NOT STRUCK WITH OUR BLADE--INSTEAD BY OUR WIELDER'S *SON, EITIN THATCHBEARD.*

BEING WHAT WE ARE--A FRAGMENT OF THE CURSED SHIP *NAGLFAR* TRANSFORMED INTO A CURSED AX--WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULD NOT BE QUITE SO EASY TO DISPATCH A *SHAPE-SHIFTER.*

BUT IT IS GOOD, AT LEAST, TO SEE OUR CREATOR, LOKI, IN PAIN.

"FATHER, PERHAPS IT IS A GOOD THING WE DID NOT KILL THE ASGARDIAN."

I HAVE BEEN SPEAKING TO HIM IN HIS CELL. HE *KNOWS* THINGS.

HE HAS WARNED ME OF WHAT IS TO COME AND THE DANGERS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL AX YOU HAVE CRAFTED.

EITIN, MY SWEET SON. IF YOU HAVE BEEN LETTING THAT SERPENT WHISPER IN YOUR EAR, YOU SHOULD KNOW HE DOES NOT EVEN APPEAR TO BE A *"HE"* ANYMORE.

WE CAN NEVER TRUST THE WORDS OF SUCH A SLIPPERY CREATURE.

BUT LOKI SAYS THAT WIELDING THIS AX WILL CONDEMN--

THIS AX WAS MY *OWN* HANDIWORK, SON.

DO YOU NOT THINK I KNOW ITS EVERY QUALITY?

HEH.

FATHER, IT IS TRUE THAT YOU WET THE AX WITH THE BLOOD OF YURI OF THE *IRONSKIN CLAN.*

NOW LOKI TELLS THAT YURI'S BROTHER, *RURI,* THIRSTS FOR VENGEANCE.

YURI ENVIED THE AX. HE TRIED TO *TAKE* IT FROM ME.

LOKI SAYS RURI HAS SOUGHT OUT ANCIENT *DRAGONSPINE...*

"...THAT HE IS CRAFTING FOR HIMSELF A MIGHTY SPEAR, IMBUED WITH SALAMANDER BLOOD AND HELFIRE."

DRAGONSPINE... ITS EXPLOSIVE CARTILAGE MAKES IT FAR TOO *VOLATILE* TO WORK WITH.

I HAVE SENT OUT SCOUTS, AND THEY CONFIRM RURI HAS SOURCED THE MATERIALS.

HE THINKS THAT IF *YOU* COULD CREATE SOMETHING LIKE THAT AX, WHY CAN'T HE?

VERY GOOD, THEN. LET HIM BLOW HIS ENTIRE CLAN SKYWARD.

YOU ALSO STRUCK DOWN *SOLMO* OF THE *OAKSOUL* CLAN...

"LOKI CLAIMS *HER SISTERS* HAVE SOURCED GRIM STATUARY FROM THE CATACOMBS BELOW DARKHOLD CASTLE.

"FROM IT, THEY ARE CARVING A STONE SWORD OF SOME TERRIBLE QUALITIES."

ENOUGH.

THAT PLACE IS A MYTH--AND IF IT WERE NOT, ITS BROODING HORRORS WOULD BE TOO GREAT FOR THEM TO EVEN LIFT.

WORRY YOURSELF NOT WITH THE FOLLIES OF COVETOUS DWARVES.

FATHER. YOU ARE TIRED FROM THE BATTLES WE'VE ALREADY BEEN FIGHTING.

IF EITHER CLAN SHOULD SUCCEED...IF THEY SHOULD COME HERE WITH SUCH DANGEROUS WEAPONRY IN HAND...

I WORRY FOR YOU. FOR US ALL.

LET *ME* TAKE THE AX.

LET ME DESTROY BOTH CLANS BEFORE THEY FINISH THEIR WORK.

OH, I SEE.

WE HAVE FOUGHT BATTLES TO PREVENT ANY BUT MYSELF FROM LAYING HANDS ON THIS HANDLE, MY SON.

NOW, IF I DID NOT KNOW BETTER, I WOULD FEAR YOU COVETED IT YOURSELF.

PUT ALL SUCH THOUGHTS FROM YOUR HEAD, MY SON. THAT IS AN *ORDER.*

"THE LIAR"

Chapter Two

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OH, LITTLE SHIP...

...WHAT TROUBLE YOU'RE TURNING OUT TO BE.

CHUNK KLIK CHUUNK KROOM

AH. HE'S BACK.

HE WILL NOT LISTEN TO REASON.

FATHERS SO RARELY DO.

HE WAS NOT A WARLIKE DWARF BEFORE HE FOUND THE MATERIAL FOR THAT AX.

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THE SOULS OF THE NAGLFAR HAVE GOTTEN **IDEAS** IN THEIR FIGURATIVE HEADS.

THEY WISH FOR OTHERS TO SUFFER AS THEY DID.

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY I COULD PROTECT HIM FROM IT. FROM THE WEAPONS THE IRONSKIN AND OAKSOUL CLANS ARE CREATING.

THERE ISN'T. UNLESS YOU LET ME OUT.

THE NAGLFAR IS MY CREATION. I DOUBT THERE'S ANY MAGIC LEFT IN YOUR REALM THAT COULD RIVAL EVEN A FRACTION OF MY OWN.

FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN WITH MY OWN EYES, I DO BELIEVE THE AX WILL HARM MY FATHER.

BUT I ALSO **CANNOT** BELIEVE YOU THINK ME FOOL ENOUGH TO TRUST LOKI LAUFEYSON.

YOU ARE WHERE YOU BELONG BEHIND THESE LOCKS AND SIGILS, GOD OF LIES.

SLAM

KLINK KLONK

FOOM KLIK

NO MAGIC IN THIS REALM TO RIVAL A FRACTION OF YOUR OWN, O LOKI?

WELL THEN.

SIG, SOG, LOYAL COUSINS.

HEAT THE SMELTER.

LOKI'S *CROWN* IS MADE OF GOLD, OF A SORT.

GOLD IS A POROUS METAL. IT ABSORBS AND CONDUCTS BETTER THAN MOST.

IT IS HARD TO SAY HOW MANY MILLENNIA THIS CROWN HAS SPENT SOAKING UP LOKI'S TRICKERY.

LOKI'S MISCHIEF.

LOKI'S EVIL.

WE MUST ADMIT...

...THIS WAS A FINE IDEA OF EITIN THATCHBEARD, SON OF SEMIR...

...THE *LONGBOW* HE CREATES FROM IT ALMOST RIVALS US FOR BEAUTY. IT ALMOST INSPIRES A SIMILAR AWE IN THOSE WHO LAY THEIR EYES UPON IT.

HRNNNNNNNNNN

IT HAS HARDLY COOLED FROM THE FORGE WHEN ENEMIES APPEAR AT THE GATES.

HMMM?

HM.

OUR WIELDER SPOKE TRUTH WHEN HE CLAIMED DRAGONSPINE WAS VOLATILE TO WORK WITH.

BUT RURI OF THE IRONSKIN CLAN HAD SO MANY TEARS OF GRIEF AND RAGE IN WHICH TO TEMPER THE FLAME.

THE RESULTS ARE SOMEWHAT SPECTACULAR.

BUT *WE* ARE MORE SO, OF COURSE.

OUR WIELDER ALSO SPOKE TRUTH WHEN HE SAID THE STONE OF THE DARKHOLD WOULD MAKE FOR AN UNWIELDY BLADE.

BUT THE OAKSOUL CLAN ARE MASTERS OF *AIR RUNES*, AND THUS INSCRIBED, THE BLADE CARRIES THE STRENGTH OF STONE AND THE WEIGHT OF A FEATHER.

ALONE, EACH WEAPON WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR US.

TOGETHER, WE ADMIT TO BEING A *LITTLE* PRESSED.

HRGH!

FATHER!

ALL THE EVIL, TRICKERY AND MISCHIEF OF LOKI'S PAST GATHERED INTO A SINGLE BOLT OF CRACKLING POTENTIAL.

IT *WAS* A FINE IDEA OF EITIN THATCHBEARD'S...

...BUT PERHAPS HE SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT THROUGH A LITTLE FURTHER.

HOLD ON, FATH--

BOOOM

HE MIGHT HAVE REALIZED *EVIL, MISCHIEF* AND *TRICKERY* WOULD LIKELY COAGULATE INTO AN *EVIL, MISCHIEVOUS TRICK* ON THEIR WIELDER.

EITIN?!

MY SON!

HMM.

THAT'S ENOUGH, I'M SURE.

CHUNK KLIK CHUUNK KROOM

I DIDN'T WANT TO CREATE A WEAPON.

I DIDN'T WANT WAR.

I WANTED AN AX TO CHOP FIREWOOD, TO KEEP MY SON WARM.

WELL.

HE CERTAINLY LOOKS WARM NOW.

GO TO HEL, LOKI LAUFEYSON. TAKE THIS CURSED AX WITH YOU.

I HOPE IT BRINGS YOU ALL THE HAPPINESS IT HAS BROUGHT ME.

YOU CANNOT SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU, SEMIR THATCHBEARD.

YOU WIELDED A WEAPON FORMED FROM THE FINGERNAILS OF THE UNLOVED...

"...WHERE DID YOU EXPECT IT TO GET YOU?"

YOU KNOW, I COULD ALMOST BEGIN TO BELIEVE YOU ARE CURSED.

I SUPPOSE I *SHOULD* FIND THE SECOND PIECE OF YOU AS FAST AS I CAN.

LET US LEAVE LOKI TO SEARCH FOR THE SECOND PIECE OF US. IT IS BETTER HIDDEN THAN THE FIRST WAS. IT MIGHT TAKE HER A WHILE...

...SO LET US CHECK IN ON THE *THIRD* PIECE.

MIDGARD.

NEW YORK.

Florida man vanishes through green portal of light

YOU SEE, SIR, THE NAME'S *MICK MULLIGAN*, BUT THEY CALL ME *MUCK* ON ACCOUNT OF I DON'T LIKE SHOWERS OR NUFFIN'.

IT'S ALL THE WATER, NEVER TRUSTED IT. *CHEMICALS*, YOU KNOW.

ANYWAY, IT'S LIKE THIS. I FOUND THIS...*THING*. I'M LUCKY LIKE THAT, FINDING THINGS.

ANYWAY, I FOUND IT, AND THEN I PICKED IT UP AND IT STARTED CHANGING IN MY HANDS. AND I THOUGHT, WOW, WHAT THIS HAS CHANGED INTO... WELL, IT'S A WEAPON.

DANGEROUS, THAT'S WHAT IT IS.

AND I DON'T GOT MUCH USE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT MYSELF, BUT I'VE GOT USE FOR *CASH*--AND LOTS OF IT, YA KNOW. WHO DON'T?

SO I FIGURED SOMEONE LIKE YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THIS WEAPON FROM ME, MR. *OWL*.

SHOW ME. AND THEN STAND BACK.

SNIFF

VERY FAR BACK, MR. MUCK MULLIGAN.

WHAT IS--HOW DID YOU THINK THIS WAS A WEAPON?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I DO TO PEOPLE WHO WASTE MY TIME?

FRAGILE

SURE DO, MR. OWL. I'D NOT DARE. BUT LOOK A LITTLE CLOSER. YOU'LL SEE WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

FRAGILE

HANDLE WITH CARE

THIS SIDE UP

UGH, UTTER--

WAIT.

GOD, NO.

NO, NO, NO. HOW CAN IT--?

GET THIS THE HELL OUT OF MY SIGHT!

GET OUT--*OUT*--***NOW!***

THIS SIDE UP

WH-WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

SORRY WE COULDN'T DO BUSINESS, MR. OWL, BUT NOT TO WORRY.

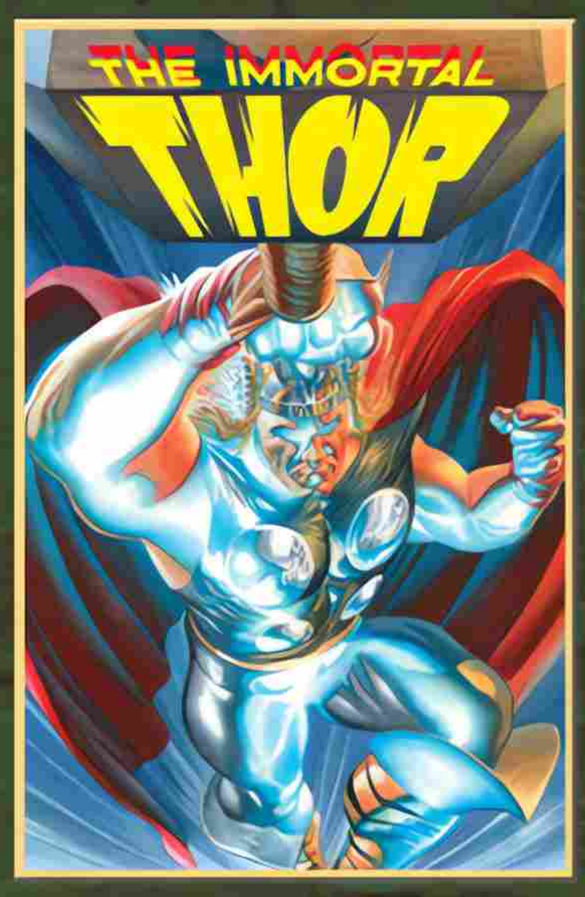
I'VE GOT PLENTY OF MEETINGS SET UP. I'M SURE I'LL FIND ME A BUYER.

TO BE CONTINUED...

AND DON'T MISS...

WHAT IF...? DARK: LOKI #1
BY WALTER SIMONSON AND SCOT EATON
ON SALE NOW

THOR ANNUAL #1
BY COLLIN KELLY, JACKSON LANZING AND IBRAIM ROBERSON
ON SALE NOW



IMMORTAL THOR #1
BY AL EWING AND MARTÍN CÓCCOLO

NEXT ISSUE:
WICCAN & HULKLING

Want to see more Loki? Then we want to hear from you! Write us at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and mark your letters **"OKAY TO PRINT"**!